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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application:

M. ARAKI et al

Serial No. 10/403,277 Filed: April 1, 2003

Group Art Unit:

2182

Examiner:

H. Kim

For:

STORAGE SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir;

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.